

Soil Judging Team places fourth in competition

By Pat Carraher

The UNL Student Soil Judging Team finished fourth in the Region V contest of the National Collegiate Soils Judging Competition Oct. 3 to 4.

David Lewis, professor of agronomy in the NU Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, said that in addition to the team's fourth place finish, Kevin Seevers was third in the individual competition. The four who competed with Seevers were Glenn Kovanda, Paul Lear, Steven Renz, and Michael Sughroue. All five are seniors.

Lewis defined soil judging as "classifying soils by recognizing their properties."

"All soils have certain biological, physical, and chemical properties, and once a student can recognize these properties, he then can classify the soil," Lewis said.

The soil judging contest tested the students' ability to classify soil samples, Lewis said.

There are a number of uses for soil classification, Lewis said. The uses range from determining how well a crop will do when planted in a certain soil to how well a house will stand on a type of soil.

Lewis said this knowledge helps in comparing soils. "If someone knows how a particular fertilizer does in a certain soil, then he can assume the fertilizer will act the same way when used with that soil again."

Lewis went with the team to Brookings, S.D. The trip was paid for by the Ak-sar-ben fund for student travel.

Lewis said two soil judging contests are scheduled each year, one in autumn and one in spring.

He said the fall competition was regional and the spring contest is national.

Nebraska is in the North Central Region that includes Kansas, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota and South Dakota. UNL will be the host of the national competition next spring, with 16 to 18 teams from around the nation competing.

The host school never is allowed to compete, so the UNL team will not participate in the contest next spring.

Lear said the team learned a lot on the trip. One thing that impressed him, Lear said, was the difference in soils between Nebraska and South Dakota.

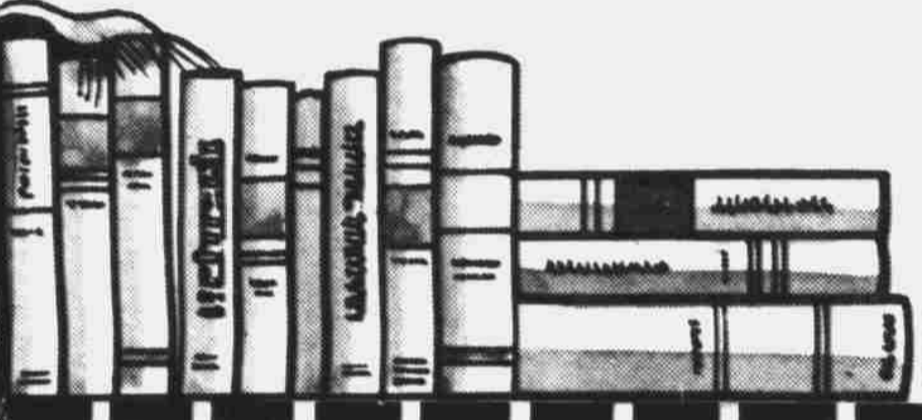
"We saw how different the soil was between here and South Dakota, so imagine how much different the soil would be between here, and say, New York," Lear said.

This year, the university was able to take all the students who wanted to compete, but that is not always the case, according to Lewis. In some years there have been so many students wanting to compete that a separate elimination contest has been held.

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The deadline for applying for a full-time internship with the Nebraska Legislature for spring semester 1981 is today. Students must be political science majors or minors. Application forms are available from Prof. Sittig, Room 503 Oldfather Hall, or from Millie Katz, Room 1218 Oldfather Hall.

Requests for P.A. scoreboard messages at home football games must be typewritten and submitted to the Office of University Information, 312 Administration, at least three days before the game. The deadline for messages for the Nebraska-Oklahoma State game is 4 p.m. today.

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